UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Monday (Day) 20 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	-	Anchored
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Anchored off Buna,BNG, in 17 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain to bow anchor on bearings: Strip Pt. 220°T, Cape Endaiadere 178°T, and Four Mile buoy 064°T. Ship in Conditi on of Readiness III. SOPA: CTG 76.9 in USS AMYCUS.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Anchored as before. 0405 Received Red Alert from shore. 0415 All clear.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Anchored as before. 0800 Crew to quarters for muster. No absentees. 1130 The following provisions were received aboard from the V.S.I.S. MERKUR for use in the general mess: 8 cases of baked beans, 6 cases red salmon, 10 cases fruit salad, 6 cases peaches, 6 cases pineapple, 3 cases honey, 14 cases jam, 2 cases marmalade, 2 cases custard powder, 6 cases tomato sauce, 8 sacks sugar, 5 cases syrup, 5 cases canned cabbage, 48 # curry powder, 15 crates oranges, 5 cases corned beef, 200 # pork sausage, 508 # serloin, 210 # rump beef, 429 # Thick flank, 294 # rolled rib, 416 # veal, 8 crates cabbage, 15 crates apples, 6 sacks onions, and 5 # mustard. Inspected as to quality by Lt.(jg) T.M. Dunn, MC-V(S),USNR, and as to quantity by Ens. M.D. Mason. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Got underway for Cape Sudest on course 145°T, 144°psc., speed 9 knots. 1317 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms of water.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Anchored as before. 1615 The following named men, received aboard without orders 11 December, 1943, were assigned to duty in this vessel by authority Com LST Flot 7 orders of 19 December, 1943: VIE, John (n), 873-21-10, S2c, USN-1, ZINGRICH, Lewis Toney, 873-20-65, S2c, USN-1, WILSON, Donald Samuel, 313-27-53, S2c, USN-1, MEUSE, Howard Frank, 761-90-45, S2c,USN, HOLMBERG, Roy Reinhold, F3c, 854-04-71, USN-1, JOHNSON, Carl Harry Robert, 854-04-36, F3c, USN -1, HOLENKO, Paul William, 870-50-97, F3c, USN-1, WHITE,Willis Waldrow, 629-84-49, S2c, USNR. 1630 Seventeen (17) of the 37 men received aboard 11 December, 1943, were transferred to USS LST 474 byauthority of Com LST Flot 7 orders of 17 December, 1943. 1745 Shifted anchorage- Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain to the bow ancher. 1945 Twelve (12) men of the 37 received aboard 11 December, 1943, were transferred to USS LST 470 by authority of Com LST Flot 7 orders of 16 December, 1943.

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Anchored as before.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE,Lt.USNR
Navigator.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Tuesday (Day) 21 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	Anchored
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Anchored off Cape Sudest, B.N.G. in 30 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain to bow anchor on bearings: Cape Endaiadere 310°T, Oro Bay 187°T. Ship in Condition of Readiness IV. SOPA: Com LstFlot 7 in LST 466. 0155 Received Red Alert form shore. 0200 All Clear. 0301 Received Yellow Alert from shore.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign, USNR.

0400-0800 Anchored as before. 0410 All Clear.

M.D. Mason, Ensign, USNR.

0800-1200 Anchored as before. 0800 Crew to quarters for muster no absentees. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and S.P. samples. Conditions Normal.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign, USNR.

1200-1600 Anchored aa before. 1540 Shifted anchorage. Anchored in 30 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain to bow anchor on bearings Cape Sudest 325°T, Oro Bay Light 183°T.

J. Kaplan, Ensign, USNR

1600-2000 Anchored as before.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign, USNR.

2000-2400 Anchored as before.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign, USNR.

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lieut, USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lieut. USNR
Navigator.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 WEDNESDAY (Day) 22 (Date) December, (Month), 19 43

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	Anchored
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Anchored off Cape Sudest,B.N.G. in 30 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain to bow anchor on bearings of Cape Sudest 325°T, Oro Bay light 183°T. Ship in Condition of Readiness III.

M.D.Mason, Ensign, USNR.

0400-0800 Anchored aa before.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign, USNR.

0800-1200 Anchored as before. 0800 Crew to quarters for muster, no absentees. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and S.P. samples. Conditions normal.

J. Kaplan, Ensign, USNR.

1200-1600 Anchored as before. 1515 PENTASUGLIA, Martino #552-66-76, EM3c USNR, LEMAIRE,James Kenneth, #328-61-37,GM2c USN, LAMPROE,Benjamin Zerubl,#633-17-68,SC2c USNR. were detached U.S.S. AMYCUS for further transfer to ComSerFor,Atlantic, by Authority of Com LST Flot.7 ltr. of 22 December, 1943.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Anchored as before.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign, USNR.

2000-2400 Anchored as before.

M.D. Mason, Ensign, USNR.

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lieut. USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lieut. USNR
Navigator

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Thursday (Day) 23 (Date) December (Month), 19 43

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	8°-18'S
Long.			148°-20'E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Anchored off Cape Sudest B.N.G. in 30 fathoms of water with 90 fathoms of chain to bow anchor on bearings 325°T to Cape Sudest, OroBay light 183°T. Ship in condition of Readiness III.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Anchored as before.

J. Kaplan, Ensign, USNR.

0800-1200 Anchored as before. 0800 Crew to Quarters for Muster No absentees. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and S.P. samples. Conditions normal.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Anchored as before. 1540 Got underway to form up with other LST's.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign, USNR

1600-2000 Manuvering for position on various speeds and courses, 1620 set course 000°T,348°psc. Group formed in two columns: port column LST's 452,22, 204, Stbd. column LST's 457, 456,454 in that order. 1745 Changed course to 334°T, 324°psc.

M.D. Mason, Ensign, USNR

2000-2400 Underway as before on course 334°T,324°psc. 2153 Course changed to 343°T,333°psc. Mitre Rock abeam to port 3½ miles.

D.L. O'Connor,Ensign,USNR.

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lieut. USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lieut. USNR.
Navigator.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Friday (Day) 24 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Beached	Beached	Beached
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Underway for Cape Cretin,BNG, on course 343°T, 333°psc., speed 9 knots, in company with USS LST's 452(Flag), 22, 202 in port column, and USS LST's 457, 456, 454 in starboard column; with two destroyers and an SC acting as escort. Ship in Condition of Readiness III.

J. Kaplan
J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Underway as before on course 343°T, 333°psc. 0615 Changed course to 020°T, 012°psc. 0619 Changed course to 015°T, 007°psc. 0650 Proceeding independently to beach. 0745 Beached inside Megim Is. reef at Cape Cretin on heading 295°T, with two ½" wire bow cables and two ½" wire quarter cables to the beach.

R E Pederson
R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Beached as before. 1035 USS LCT 178 moored alongside to port for water. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

A P Fleming
A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Beached as before. 1430 Twelve hundred twenty five (1225) rounds of .50 cal. ammunition was transferred to USS LCT 178.

M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Beached as before. 1700 USS LCT 178 underway from alongside. USS APc 15 moored alongside to port for water. 1735 USS APc 15 underway from alongside.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Beached as before. 2010 Red Alert on beach. 2015 All clear.

J Kaplan
J Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

Approved:
E R Swanton
E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR

Examined:
E C Nalle
E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Saturday (Day) 25 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Beached	Beached	6°-41'S
Long.			147°-55'E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Beached at Cape Cretin,BNG, on heading 295°T, with two ½" wire bow cables and two ½" wire quarter cables to the beach. Ship in Condition of Readiness III.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Beached as before. 0516 Red Alert from shore. Crew to General Quarters. 0608 Secured from General Quarters.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Beached as before. 0800 Crew to quarters for muster. No absentees. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Beached as before. 1310 Retracted from beach.. 1323 Anchored offshore in 15 fathoms of water with 30 fathoms of chain to the bow anchor.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Anchored as before. 1605 Held Abandon Ship drill. 1657 Got underway. 1851 Anchored outside the reef in 100 fathoms of water with 800 feet of wire to the stern anchor. 1930 Got underway to from up with other LST's.

E.C. Nalle, Lt.USNR

2000-2400 Underway on course 050°T, 038°psc., speed 9 knots. 2102 Changed course to 354°T, 343°psc. 2224 Cahnged course to 324°T, 315°psc.

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Sunday (Day) 26 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	5°-21'S	5°-21'S	5°-21'S
Long.	147°-56'E	148°-26'E	148°-20'E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Underway for Cape Gloucester, New Britain, on course 324°T, 315°psc., speed 9 knots, to make an assault landing. This echelon (Fifth) consists of seven LST's and one tug. In the port column: USS LST's 457, 22, 465, 26. In the starboard column: USS LST's 452, 456, 454, and HMAS Reserve. Escorted by four destroyers. Ship in Condition of Readiness III. OITC: Com Task Group 76.2.2 in USS LST 452. 0240 Changed course to 000°T, 351°psc.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Underway as before on course 000°T, 351°psc. 0530 Changed course to 054°T, 045°psc. 0615 General Quarters. 0700 Secured from General Quarters. 0730 Changed course to 075°T, 072° psc.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Underway as before on course 075°T, 072°psc. 0915 General Quarters. 0925 Secured from General Quarters. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Underwya on various courses to conform to channel. 1330 Lying to, preparatory to beaching. 1354 Beached at Borgen Bay, New Britain, on heading 246°T. Commenced unloading. 1430 Crew to General Quarters. 1433 Japanese dive-bomber (Val) crossed astern about 400 yards away. Aft 20 mm guns opened fire, 75 rounds expended. Observed dive-bombing of LST's and DD's outside the reefs off Cape Gloucester. 1500 Received seven Marine casualties aboard.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Beached as before. 1812 Retracted from beach and got underway. Steered varibus courses to conform to channel. 1830 One casualty died. BIRAGA, W.A. #353622, Cpl. USMCR, of multiple injuries. 1930 Set course 280°T. 276°psc.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Underway as before on course 280°T, 276°psc.

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR
Navigator

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Monday (Day) 27 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	6°-31'S	7°-05'S	8°-02'S
Long.	148°-01'E	147°-48'E	148°-09.5'E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Underway for Buna,BNG, on course 234°T, 230°psc., speed 10 knots, returning from an assault landing at Cape Gloucester, New Britain. In company with USS LST's 466, 457, 456, 452, 22, 26, and 465, escorted by 3 destroyers. Ship in Condition of Readiness III. OITC: Com Task Group 76.2.■ in LST 466. 0055 Changed course to 180°T, 176°psc. 0320 Changed course to 144°T, 140°psc.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Underway as before on course 144°T, 144°psc. 0625 General Quarters. 0710 Secured from General Quarters. 0719 Changed course to 174°T, 171°psc.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Underway as before on course 174°T, 171°psc. 0830 Went alongside USS LST 26 to receive medical gear. 0928 Changed course to 215°T, 211°psc. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazine and SP samples. Conditions normal.

S. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Underway as before on course 215°T, 211°psc. 1346 Changed course to 208°T, 205°psc. 1432 Changed course to 132°T, 128°psc.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Underway as before on course 132°T, 128°psc. 1841 Changed course to 162°T, 159°psc.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Underway as before on course 162°T, 159°psc. 2001 Changed course to 152°T, 150°psc. Mitre Rock one mile abeam to starboard.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR
Navigator.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Tuesday (Day) 28 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	Anchored
Long.			

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 0000 Anchored off Buna,BNG, in 33 fathoms of water with 600 feet of cable to stern anchor. Ship in Condition of Readiness IV. SOPA: Com Task Group 76.2 in USS LST 466. 0010 Sent two critical Marine casualties and one dead to USS LST 464.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Anchored as before. 0458 Got underway for Cape Sudest. 0605 Anchored off Cape Sudest in 30 fathoms of water with 70 fathoms of chain to the bow anchor.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Anchored as before. 0800 Crew to quarters for muster. No absentees. 0915 Sent remaining four casualties to USS LST 464. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

M.D. MASON, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Anchored as before,

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Anchored as before.

RE. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Anchored as before.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR
Navigator

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Wednesday (Day) 29 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	Anchored	Anchored	9°-02'S
Long.			149°-21.5'E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS

(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Anchored off Cape Sudest,BNG, in 30 fathoms of water with 75 fathoms of chain to the bow anchor. Ship in Condition of Readiness IV. SOPA: Com Task Group 76.2 in USS LST 466.

M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Anchored as before.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Anchored as before. 0800 Crew to quarters for muster. No absentees. 0946 Got underway and shifted anchorage inshore. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Anchored as before. 1250 Got underway and shifted anchorage offshore. 1400 Got underway and on various courses to form section. 1435 Set course 115°T, 112°psc., speed 9.5 knots.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Underway as before on course 115°T, 112°psc. 1810 Changed course to 090°T, 087°psc. 1826 Spear Island light 1 mile abeam to starboard. 1930 Changed course to 124°T, 122°psc. 1950 Changed course to 170°T, 170°psc.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Underway as before on course 170°T, 170°psc. 2035 Changed course to 128°T, 125°psc.

M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR
Navigator.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Thursday (Day) 30 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	9°-23'S	Beached	Beached
Long.	150°-23'E		

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Underway for Beli-Beli, Goodenough Is., D'Entrecasteaux Is., on course 128°T, 125°psc. speed 9.5 knots, in company with USS LST's 452(Flag), 466, 170, 22, 456. Ship in Condition of Readiness III. 0135 Cape Vogel abeam to starboard. 0200 Changed course to 090°T, 087°psc.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Underway as before on course 090°T, 087°psc. 0430 Changed course to 024°T, 013°psc. 0530 LST 452 went aground on reef. Changed course to 280°T and stopped engines. 0715 Underway again on course 000°T, 351°psc., leading LST's 170 and 22.

J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Underway as before. 0815 Proceeding on various courses and speeds preparatory to beaching. 0825 Beached at Slip #5, Beli-Beli, Goodenough Is. 0841 Retracted from the beach. 0900 Beached at Slip #6. Ship secured to beach with two ½" wire bow cables, on heading 230°T. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Beached as before.

A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Beached as before.

M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Beached as before.

D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

Approved:

E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:

E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR
Navigator.

UNITED STATES SHIP LST 454 Friday (Day) 31 (Date) December (Month), 1943

Zone description -10

Position	0800	1200	2000
Lat.	9°-27'S	9°-32'S	8°-55'S
Long.	150°-24'E	149°-56'E	148°-55.5'E

OPERATIONAL REMARKS
(WAR DIARY)

0000-0400 Beached at Slip #6, Be;i-Beli, Goodenough Is., D'Entrecasteaux Is., with two ½" wire bow cables to the beach. Ship in Condition of Readiness IV. SOPA: Com Task Group 76.2.2 in USS LST 452.

J. Kaplan
J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

0400-0800 Beached as before. 0700 Retracted from beach and got underway to take position in section. 0730 Task group formed in two columns. First section: LST's 452, 466,& 170. Second section: LST's 454, 456, & 22.

R.E. Pederson
R.E. Pederson, Ensign,USNR

0800-1200 Underway as before. 0822 Set course 177°T, 176°psc., speed 9 knots. 0840 Changed course to 255°t, 251°psc. 1045 Changed course to 280°T, 276°psc. 1100 Changed course to 307°T, 303°psc. 1135 Changed course to 308°T, 304°psc. 1159 Made daily inspection of magazines and SP samples. Conditions normal.

A.P. Fleming
A.P. Fleming, Ensign,USNR

1200-1600 Underway as before on course 308°T, 304°psc. 1503 Group formed single column, open order.

M.D. Mason
M.D. Mason, Ensign,USNR

1600-2000 Underway as before on course 308°T, 304°psc. 1627 Changed course to 350°T, 346°psc. 1740 Changed course to 270°T, 265°psc. 1834 Spear Island light abeam 1 mile to port. 1935 Course changed to 307°T, 303°psc.

D.L. O'Connor
D.L. O'Connor, Ensign,USNR

2000-2400 Underway as before on course 307°T, 303°psc. 2215 Stopped off Cape Sudest and sent a small boat ashore in charge of Davis, N., S2c,USNR, to wait until the ship returns. 2255 Underway as before.

J. Kaplan
J. Kaplan, Ensign,USNR

Approved:
E.R. Swanton
E.R. SWANTON, Lt.USNR
Commanding Officer.

Examined:
E.C. Nalle
E.C. NALLE, Lt.USNR
Navigator.